

HISTORY OF JAMES "D" MURDOCH & WIVES

James "D" Murdoch was born January 3, 1850 in the small village of Cronberry, in the Parish of Auchinleck, Ayrshire, Scotland. His parents were William Murdoch and Janet Lennox Murdoch. James was the second child in the family. His sister Elizabeth was older and his brother David Lennox, and sisters, Mary, Janet, and Margaret were younger. Elizabeth died at age seventeen and Mary shortly after her birth.

James' father worked as a agricultural laborer and eventually went to work in the mines where more money could be earned to support his growing family. They lived in Williams' boyhood town of Gaswater. James' grandmother "Wee Granny" (Mary Murray Murdoch), a widow, lived here also. She along with her son John Murray, and daughters Mary M. Mair, and Veronica M. Caldow and James' mother, Janet Lennox Murdoch, had all been baptised into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints when the American Mormon Missionaries came teaching the restored gospel in their area. In 1856 "Wee Granny" left Gaswater to immigrate to Utah to join John who had gone there in 1852. She died on her way to Zion at Chimney Rock in the Martin Handcart Company. James' father, William was a faithful Presbyterian and could see no need for changing his religious beliefs at that time. But twenty-four years later he also was baptised into the L.D.S. Church.

The family lived in Cronberry when James and David were born then moved back to Gaswater. They left there to go to Cumnock, James' mothers childhood town, about the time "Wee Granny" left for America. Brother David L. writes, "My father and family moved from the Grasswater row to Cumnock where we were located for some two years or so and then again moving to Muirkirk for reasons of Fathers employment there." James' grandfather, David Lennox, died in January of 1857 in Old Cumnock. His grandmother Elisabeth Templeton Lennox had died when James' mother was a young girl. The informatin written by William Murdoch (MURDOCH MESSENGER edition 6 page 8) states he went to Muirkirk in 1857. Here he became underground manager of the Eglinton Coal and Iron Wroks. James would have been seven years old at this time and his family lived in the Linkieburn House.

At an early age James began to work in the mines also but not with his father's approval. William wanted James to spend his time and energy securing the best education possible. In an effort to encourage his son in this direction William, as underground manager, gave the order that James was not to be allowed to ride the train that transported the miners from their homes to the mine and back. James insisted on walking the few miles to work and the few miles back home, exhibiting the perserverance that helped to bring him success later. However, James too recognized the value of a good education and was anxious to gain one so he attended night school.

James gained his education at the Muirkirk Iron Works School and in 1867, at age seventeen, he attended the Glasgow Mechanics Institution at Glasgow, Scotland. Here he served a two year apprenticeship, being "bound-out" as was the custom in those days in Scotland. He received \$1.75 per week for a 60-hour work week. (See Page 28)

James needed to spend every minute possible on his studies, but he also needed to spend time to knit his stockings. He resolved this conflict by wearing long pants and short stockings instead of knickers and over-the-knee stockings usually worn by boys at that time. He chose a long-range goal of education over a short-range goal of dressing like his peers even though he was an excellent knitter. Later at the beginning of World War I, he taught his wife a better way to turn the toes and heels of stockings and she in turn showed the Red Cross ladies how to do so. This was to aid the Red Cross in providing hand-knitted stockings for men in the armed services. James called the stitches, "rig and furrin", (ridge and furrow) instead of knit and purl.

James had trained to be a marine engineer. Boulton & Watt, having built a ship at the mouth of the Clyde River, hired him to be the boatswain to take the ship to Birmingham, England. Because there was such motion in the water at the mouth of the Clyde, people who came aboard to visit the ship were often overtaken by sea-sickness. One such person had been sick at the wheel and when the Captain told James that his first duty would be to clean up the wheel, he answered, "I wouldn't clean it up if you'd give me the ship", and walked off the ship in disgust and indignation. This was his first and last experience working on a ship.

Soon after the ship episode in 1870 James decided to leave his native land. He remembered the stories the Mormon Missionaries had told him about the wonders of America when they visited at his parents' home when he was a small boy, so he resolved to go there and see if these tales were true. When he informed his parents he intended to go as a steerage-class passenger, his mother said in indignation, "No son of mine is going to travel steerage--that's for animals", and made him buy a second-class ticket. As further evidence of her concern his mother quilted gold coins into James' vest which he wore constantly. Each coin could be removed independently as needed and until then was kept safely hidden. She also told him, "I'm going to give you nine months to return. Read the Bible, and keep out of debt."

In May of 1870 he went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he worked as a machinist at the Water Works. When the financial panic of 1873 struck, he returned to Scotland for a visit of eighteen months, then went back to Pittsburgh in 1874. He helped to install the new water works there after his return from Scotland.

His family had planned to leave Scotland in January 1878 to join him, but his mother died in December 1877, so their plans were delayed. His father together with his brother David Lennox, David's wife Elizabeth, his two sisters Margaret (Maggie) and Janet (Jennie),

arrived in New York in June 1878. James met them on the boat at Ellis Island and was quarantined with the passengers overnight because of some minor disease that had broken out during the crossing. The following day he took his loved ones to Pittsburgh and showed them the sights of the "Smokey City". The same day his family entrained for the west, but he remained at his job in Pittsburgh for the time being. On 22 March 1879, James received a certificate of Declaration of Intention of becoming a citizen of the United States of America in Allegheny County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In 1879 James decided to visit other parts of these great United States, and came west to Salt Lake City. After visiting his relatives, he intended going to San Francisco to apply for a position with the water works in that city. He stayed in Salt Lake City at the Walker House, which was located on the west side of Main Street between Second South and Third South where the first Keith O'Brien store was later located. As he walked around Salt Lake City, he met an old friend, Mr. Ben Morgan, who had been his boss in the installation of the new Pittsburgh water works. Mr. Morgan suggested to him that his talents were needed in the mining town of Park City, in Summit County, Utah, where Mr. Morgan was operating the Lady of the Lake Mine located in McHenry's Gulch. McHenry's Gulch led down from Lake Flat toward Heber City. Mr. Morgan was in charge of the pumps which had been installed to drain the water from the lower levels of the mine. He had just that day hired a man to work on the pumps, of whose ability he was very dubious. Later this man proved to be very undependable, so James got the job.

After he had visited his family and other relatives who resided in Heber City, James went to Park City. He was not much impressed at first with the town and said to an acquaintance, "If I ever get one pay check out of Park City, it will be the last." Never the less, he stayed there twenty-one years and became a very valuable employee and investor in several of the great mines in that locality, especially the Silver King and the Daly West. He assisted Ben Morgan in building a hoisting works at the Lady of the Lake Mine and continued working in the mechanical department of that mine for some time. This mine later became known as the Park-Utah.

In the early 1880's James began working as a machinist at the Ontario Mining Company Mill. His rise was rapid as his knowledge of the technical as well as the practical end of the mining industry made him a valuable man to have around. On October 6, 1885, James received a Certificate of Citizenship of the United States of America from the Third Judicial District Court of the Territory of Utah. In 1888 he began a 12 year period as master mechanic and chief engineer for the Ontario and Daly Mining Companies and did much to help those properties become known the world over. In 1890 he was loaned to a mining company in Acaconda, Montana to solve a pumping difficulty and soon after that went to Pioche, Nevada on a similar mission.

In 1893 he was elected to be a Councilman for Park City and served along with Ezra Thompson with whom he later became associated in business enterprises in Salt Lake City. He numbered among his friends in Park City many prominent men of the community and was sent in 1894 with David Keith and Thomas Kearns to Salt Lake City as a delegate from Summit County to help write the Constitution for the State of Utah. They were all three pledged to vote for Women's Suffrage, but James was the only one of the three who kept his promise. This issue was the most contentious one of the convention.

While working at the mine James lived at the boarding house owned by Marion Brown Johnson and her husband. There he met a young lady named Lizzie Lindsay who was working for the Johnson Family. Lizzie was a daughter of Samuel and Euphema Wright Lindsay of Midway, Utah. On January 1, 1883, in Park City, Utah, James and Lizzie were married. Four children were born to this union:

William Wallace	Born 30 October 1883 in Park City	Died 19 July 1954
Effie Lisle	Born 24 June 1886 in Park City	Died 24 October 1969
Robert Bruce	Born 23 September 1889 in Park City	Died 20 January 1905
Ruby Estella	Born 9 December 1892 in Park City	Died 26 February 1976

Lizzie's health failed and she suffered for several years with dropsy and tuberculosis. James had moved her and the children to Salt Lake City about 1894 so that she could have the attention of the best physicians obtainable, but their skill could not stay the ravages of the disease. She died December 4, 1896 and was buried December 7, in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. The beautiful house that had been in the process of building would have been ready for occupancy on New Year's Day 1897, but Lizzie's death brought a great change in the lives of her husband and children. The oldest child was thirteen and the youngest just four years old at her death.

The four children were taken to the home of David L. Murdoch and his beloved wife, Elizabeth, where they were welcomed into the family and kindly cared for until August 1897. Then James took his family back to Park City where his sister, Margaret, and her husband, John Adamson, opened their home to them. By the time these dear people moved to Idaho in the spring of 1898, a cousin of James, Mary Murdoch Duke, had returned from Europe where she had gone as a governess for David Keith, Jr. when his parents went to the British Isles and the Continent. "Aunt Mary", as the children called her, became house-keeper for James.

In the meantime James had moved his furniture from the small home in Salt Lake City where Lizzie had died to a house in Park City next door to the home the family had formerly occupied near the mouth of Ontario Canyon. This home was near the house of Lizzie's mother, Euphemia Wright Lindsay.

"Aunt Mary" Duke kept James' home until late in the year of 1898, when on November 14, he married Eliza (Lyde) Thackeray of Croyden, Utah, the daughter of George and Helen Condie Thackeray. James had met Eliza in Park City when she went there to visit her sister and brother-in-law, Margaret Ann (Nan) Thackeray Paradise and Reuben Paradise. who was living there.

To James and Eliza were born four children:

James Douglas Born 26 September 1899 in Park City Died 14 January 1934

Helen Janet Born 17 November 1902 in Salt Lake City Died 15 October 1969

Gwendolyn Thackeray Born 6 January 1904 in Salt Lake City

Margaret Eliza Born 1 July 1908 in Salt Lake City Died 8 December 1956

By 1900 James decided he had worked in the mines long enough, so he moved again to Salt Lake City in September and established Eliza and the children in the beautiful house he had had built at 541 South Main Street.

During the period of time between the completion of the house (January 1897) and the occupation of it by the family (September 1900), The house was rented by George Sutherland. Mr. Sutherland was an attorney and a senator in the Utah State Legislature, who later became a representative and senator to the Congress of the United States, president of the American Bar Association, and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

James became a partner with Ezra Thompson, former operator of the Silver King Mine and Daly-West Mining interests, in the ownership and management of the Thompson-Murdoch Investment Company, owners of the Newhouse Office Building, and other valuable business properties in Salt Lake City. He was made secretary-treasurer of the company on its organization and later became president upon the death of Mr. Thompson. He was also president of Commercial Warehouse Company, secretary-treasurer of Cardiff Mining and Milling Company, treasurer of Kennebec Consolidated Mining Company, and treasurer of Peerless Coal Company.



Since he had displayed such good judgement in his own business affairs, he was chosen to become a director in Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, Zion's Savings Bank and Trust Company, Utah State National Bank, Beneficial Life Insurance Company and Home Benefit and Building Society. In these positions he contributed much to the stability and security of each institution. He had always refused to hire men who were known to be drinkers when employing workers for the mines. In his youth in Scotland he had signed a Temperance Union pledge to never use intoxicating liquor and to peaceably fight the liquor interests. During the years in Park City he attended a small gathering of friends and when each chose his beverage James elected buttermilk. He was immediately given the nickname, "Buttermilk Jim". which persisted for years in spite of the fact most people addressed him as "Mr. Murdoch."

After James' death it was told to Eliza, his widow, by President Heber J. Grant that whenever a director's meeting was held at the bank and liquor interests were seeking loans, James voted against the deals every time despite the fact they were willing to pay much higher interest rates to secure the loans. Later President Grant stated in a four-page, hand-written letter to Eliza, "I rejoice with you that your beloved husband accepted the Gospel of our Redeemer before passing away. I have, as you know, been associated with him for many years in a business way, and I found him to be a man of the highest integrity and one with not only high ideals but with the moral courage to stand solidly for the right as he saw the right. His sense of right was high."

Ezra Thompson, James' partner, was elected for the second time as Mayor of Salt Lake City, and in 1907 James was elected to serve under him as a member of the City Council for two years. He was extremely interested in every project that increased the welfare and progress of the community and he always gave his full cooperation to such efforts. He was a candidate in 1909 for Mayor of Salt Lake City on the Republican ticket opposing John S. Bransford who headed the American Party. James was not interested in politics, however, and he failed to get out and campaign; so of course Mr. Bransford won the election. In 1909 he again became a member of the City Council and also a member of the Commercial Club, serving well in both capacities. After serving two terms as Councilman he was appointed to serve as Salt Lake County Commissioner, and it was during those years that the Salt Lake County Hospital was built at State Street and twenty-first South. He also held many important civic positions in Salt Lake City, being known as a successful and "canny" Scotsman.

With the exception of a period in 1898 when he was grand master of the Masonic Order for the State of Utah, James spent little time in social affairs, but loved home life. He spent much time in reading and improving his mind and became a well-educated citizen. He set the finest of examples for his children, his friends, and the community at large.

He was a close personal associate of President Heber J. Grant and often remarked that if he ever joined the Church it would be because of the example of righteous living of this esteemed friend. Even though James was not a member of the Church, when a drive was begun to collect funds for the construction of the Salt Lake Eighth Ward building, Eliza went to their Bishop with a \$50 donation which she had saved from her housekeeping money. She asked that he not tell James she had made the gift. The Bishop didn't know how to react to the situation--whether he ought to accept the money without James' knowledge or whether he ought to refuse it and deny Eliza the blessings to which she would be entitled. He went to President Grant to seek counsel in solving the problem. President Grant's answer was, "Go to the husband and ask him for a donation." As the Bishop was leaving, President Grant asked, "Who is this family? Who is the husband?" When the Bishop replied, "James 'D' Murdoch", President Grant added, "I'll match anything you get from him." President Grant had long known of James' frugality.

The Bishop, who was also aware of James' ability to preserve his financial resources, went to James and made a request for a gift to the building fund. James replied, "I've been wondering when you were going to come to see me". and gave the Bishop \$500. The Bishop then took James' money, went back to see President Grant, and collected another \$500. The Eighth Ward building was constructed; it was and still is a beautiful edifice.

James was baptized in the Salt Lake Tabernacle font by Elder Francis L. Dent on August 2, 1924 and was confirmed a member of the L. D. S. Church on the next day by Elder Louis E. Iverson. On August 6 he was stricken with a fever of 107 degrees which prevailed for several days necessitating that he be packed in ice bags. For the second time in his life he was plagued with hiccups which would not allow him to eat or sleep. Several doctors in attendance could not diagnose his trouble. Carbonated water was all he could tolerate, and a machine to produce this was set up in the basement.

However, on Sunday, August 10 he was ordained an Elder by Hugh J. Cannon, President of the Eighth Quorum of Elders and former President of Liberty Stake. From then on his health improved rapidly for one main reason: Eliza, Effie Lisle, and Ruby Estella were praying and had been praying for many years that he would live to go to the Temple and have his wives and children sealed to him. He received his endowment September 19, 1924 and some of the sealings were performed the same day by President George F. Richards. Others have followed in the years since. Thus were dreams fulfilled and prayers answered.

Early on the morning of December 2, 1924 James "D" Murdoch passed away following a heart attack. Funeral services were held in the Eighth Ward Chapel and burial took place in Mt. Olivet Cemetery on December 4, 1924.

James and Eliza had talked for several hours the night before he died, he giving her advice about many financial problems. Helen and Gwendolyn had been out to a dancing party until about midnight. Being tired they soon went to sleep and were filled with surprise and sorrow when their mother awakened them about 6:00 a.m. to tell them their father had passed away in his sleep. Doctors who were called said his heart had just stopped beating. Eliza passed away on November 27, 1938 and was buried on November 30, 1938 in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. (Written by Janet Gill)

SOURCES: James Murdoch & Family Histories at Genealogical Library Film #247,886
History written by Ruby Murdoch Hooper
Newspaper Articles & Documents
Family Group Sheets done by Ruby M. Hooper, Oscar Hunter & Janet Gill

HISTORY OF LIZZIE LINDSAY MURDOCH

Lizzie Lindsay was born June 6, 1858 in Springfield, the Capitol of Illinois, the 3rd child of Samuel and Euphemia Wright Lindsay. Her father, Samuel, was the son of Robert McQueen Lindsay and Elizabeth Geddes Lindsay. Lizzie's mother, Euphemia was the daughter of Robert Wright and Janet Stevenson Wright.

Lizzie's father, Samuel, was the 5th child and 4th son of Robert McQueen Lindsay and Samuel's oldest brother, William Lindsay (who married Christina Howie) had a son, William, who married Mary Mair. As a result, all of Lizzie Lindsay Murdoch's descendants are "double cousins" to all of William and Mary Mair Lindsay's numerous posterity.

Lizzie Lindsay married James D Murdoch on January 1, 1883 in Park City, Summit County, Utah at the age of about 24 and a half. James D turned 33 two days after their marriage. They had four children during the next nine years: (1) William Wallace, (2) Effie Lisle, (3) Robert Bruce and (4) Ruby Estella.

The last few years of her life she was confined to her bed and her daughter, Effie Lisle, would kneel by the side of her mother's bed so Lizzie could brush and braid Effie's long flowing tresses. Lizzie died of consumption on December 4, 1896, just 5 days before her youngest daughter turned four. Oh, how sorely she was missed and the love and respect held for her by her children and grandchildren has greatly increased through the years. (Written by Oscar Murdoch Hunter)

ELIZA THACKERAY MURDOCH

Eliza Thackeray Murdoch was born February 21, 1870 in Croydon, Morgan County, Utah. She was the seventh of ten children descended from George and Helen Condie Thackeray. Her parents had moved from Salt Lake City to Croydon in 1863 to help colonize and settle that area. They suffered the hardships incident to living in a new place. Their first home was dug in the side of a mountain until logs were cut and hauled for a one-room house with straw on the floor and a dirt roof over tree limbs. They had little meat but kept healthy on coarse grains, pigweeds, sego lily bulbs and other greens. Of the twenty families who lived there, in eight years there was no deaths. The Indians were many and treacherous and caused them much trouble. Sometimes they had to flee for their lives.

In 1878 diphtheria raged in the town of Croydon, and there were many deaths. They held a special fast and prayer meetings and the disease abated. In 1880 many cattle died of stravation as the grasshoppers were so numerous that they ate everything that was green. They hauled hay from Kaysville, many miles distant, and paid \$25 a ton for it.

Eliza's father was a rancher and farmer. He had come from York, England to Salt Lake City when he was seventeen years old, the only one of a family of eight to join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His parents were Robert Thackeray and Elizabeth Jackson.

Eliza's mother was the third of twelve children born to Thomas and Helen Sharp Condie. The family had come from Clackmannan, Scotland to Salt Lake City after a difficult journey of almost four years, which cost the lives of three of the children and nearly claimed the mother. When she was 15 years old Helen (Thackeray) had come west in the Isaac Russell Company, driving a team most of the way. Her parents had come in the Howell Company.

Helen Thackeray became Croydon's first Relief Society President on October 14, 1875 and held that position for thirty-three years. In 1887 Helen began the study of medicine and obstetrics. Eliza received a certificate of recommendation from Dr. Ellis R. Shipp's School of Obstetrics on March 14, 1890. She attended the Agriculture College at Logan, Utah in 1890 and 1891. On April 6, 1893 Helen and Eliza were each issued a certificate licensing them to practice obstetrics in the Territory of Utah. Helen became the doctor and midwife for Croydon and the surrounding communities.

Because of her family's history of dedication to and sacrifice for the L.D.S. Church, Eliza felt a need for counsel in making her decision when James Murdoch, who was not a member of that Church, asked her to marry him. She received a blessing in which she was promised that if she married him and lived righteously the time would come that he would join the L.D.S. Church. This same promise was repeated in later blessings and did come true shortly before his death. Eliza also received a Patriarchal Blessing by John Murray Murdoch October 8, 1902 that appears to be recorded in the handwriting of James "D" Murdoch.

Eliza and James were married November 14, 1898. She instantly became the step-mother to four children by James previous marriage. This is never an easy task for any women. Eliza and James had four children that she was the mother too also. She did many things with her hands, painting china and pictures, beadwork, crochet work, and knitting. She was plagued by ill health caused by a goiter and heart condition. Therefore, her home was mainly the center of her activities. In about 1901 she and James did however visit Scotland. Her own children were married in 1922, 1927, 1929, and 1933. She lived as a widow for fourteen years after her husbands death. Eliza died November 27, 1938 and was buried in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

HISTORY OF ELIZABETH MURDOCH

Elizabeth Murdoch was born April 18, 1847 the oldest child of Janet Lennox and William Murdoch. Her parents lived in Gaswater, Ayrshire, Scotland at the time of her birth. Two brothers, James "D" and David Lennox, and three sisters, Mary, Janet and Margaret were born into the family in the next eleven years. Sister Mary died shortly after her birth and was buried in Auchinleck Churchyard, Ayrshire Scotland.

Elizabeth probably was depended upon by her mother to help tend her younger brother and sisters and with household duties. She did attend school also. (Janet Gill has a book she used before James "D" used it in school)

Elizabeth's father worked as a agricultural laborer and in the mines. He eventually bacame the underground manager of the Eglinton Coal and Iron Works in Muirkirk, Ayrshire, Scotland. They lived in the Linkieburn House and because her father was better paid then the common miner the family enjoyed a better standard of living.

Elizabeth was growing into a pretty young lady when she died, at just age seventeen, on March 24, 1864. She was buried in Muirkirk, Ayrshire, Scotland. Her mother was buried beside her thirteen years later. The rest of her family immigrated to America.

